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REMARKS

1. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Examiner's comments which have greatly
5 assisted Applicant in responding.

2. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by
10 Gutman *et al* (hereafter Gutman) U.S. Patent No. 6,298,383.

Applicant respectfully traverses.

The invention provides a system and method for a distributed authentication service
15 that addresses the need to create a universal, unified single-logon infrastructure
wherein a specific user may be authenticated once and for all and the authentication
result is widely recognized by a large number of sellers or service providers (see
Specification, page 2, lines 10-14). Each authentication is carried out at one of the
participating servers and the authentication result is distributed and cached all over the
20 network of the participating servers so that the authentication results cannot be centrally
monitored (see Specification, page 4, line 21 through page 5, line 2, as well as at least
steps 225 through 227 of the Specification, page 15, lines 4-9).

Gutman do not disclose such feature and functionality. In contrast, Gutman disclose a
25 way of load balancing while seamlessly offering wholesale and retail data
communications to unify disparate systems that behave in a distributed manner (see
Col. 2, lines 57-64). It should be appreciated that Gutman disclose authentication (see,
for example, Col. 1, lines 62-63), such as by the AAA service, but nowhere do Gutman
disclose and generating an authentication result that is recognizable by all
30 authentication servers registered in said distributed network; responsive to said
generating said authentication result, means for distributing and caching said
authentication result. Gutman ultimate forwards all access requests to AAA services for

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authentication, but from that point on, Gutman teaches "Processing proceeds in a conventional manner from this point on" (see Col. 9, lines 52-53).

5 Nevertheless, Applicant has amended the independent Claims to further clarify the invention. Support can be found at least in the Specification in the citations mentioned hereinabove. No new matter has been added.

10 Therefore, in view of the amendment and the argument hereinabove, Applicant is of the opinion that the prior art of reference does not teach all claim limitations. Therefore, Applicant is of the opinion that the amended independent claims and the respective dependent claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

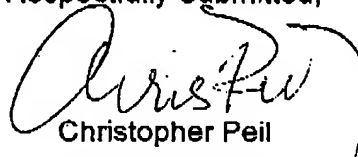
3. It should be appreciated that Applicant has elected to amend Claims solely for the purpose of expediting the patent application process in a manner consistent with the PTO's Patent Business Goals, 65 Fed. Reg. 54603 (9/8/00). In making such amendment, Applicant has not and does not in any way narrow the scope of protection to which Applicant considers the invention herein to be entitled. Rather, Applicant reserves Applicant's right to pursue such protection at a later point in time and merely
20 seeks to pursue protection for the subject matter presented in this submission.

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CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, Applicant considers the present invention to be distinguished from the art of record. Accordingly, Applicant earnestly solicits the Examiner's withdrawal of the rejections raised in the above referenced Final Office Action, such that a Notice of Allowance is forwarded to Applicant, and the present application is therefore allowed to issue as a United States patent. The Examiner is invited to call to discuss the response.

Respectfully Submitted,



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